

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ITC-01 /124 W
-----059289 150413Z /23

R 142225Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8102
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USDOC WASHDC

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MEXICO CITY FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, EIND, CS
SUBJECT: COSTA RICA MOVES TO EXPAND ITS TUNA INDUSTRY

1. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED RECENTLY THAT IN A PRESS
CONFERENCE, FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO STATED THAT
COSTA RICA WAS NEGOTIATING A TUNA TREATY WITH THE UNITED
STATES. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, FACIO EXPLAINED THAT
THE TREATY WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE U.S. WAS IMPLEMENTING
STRINGENT REGULATIONS TO PROTECT PORPOISES, AND THAT
THESE REGULATIONS WOULD PROHIBIT EXPORTS OF COSTA RICAN
TUNA TO THE UNITED STATES UNLESS COSTA RICA IMPLEMENTED
THE SAME MEASURES IN PROTECTION OF PORPOISES. FACIO ALSO
SAID THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE HE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS WOULD TRAVEL TO SAN DIEGO TO LOOK INTO THE
TUNA SITUATION AND INTO THE CONDITIONS OF COSTA RICAN
FISHERMEN WORKING ON AMERICAN TUNA VESSELS BASED THERE.

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2. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, SOMEONE CLOSE TO THE
LOCAL STARKIST REPRESENTATIVE TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE
STARKIST REP WOULD ACCOMPANY FACIO AND AGRICULTURE
MINISTER RODOLFO QUIROS TO SAN DIEGO THE LATTER PART
OF THIS WEEK.

3. A FISHERIES OFFICIAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGKLCULTURE CONFIRMED FACIO'S TRIP TO THE WEST COAST TO MEET WITH AMERICAN TUNA FIRMS. HE SAID THAT COSTA RICA WISHED TO ESTABLISH JOINT VENTURES WITH AMERICAN FIRMS ENGAGED IN TUNA FISHING. THE ADVANTAGE FOR THE AMERICAN FIRMS WOULD BE LOWER COSTS IF THE BOATS WERE BASED IN COSTA RICA AND, ASSUMING THE VESSELS COULD BE PLACED UNDER COSTA RICAN FLAG, EXEMPTION FROM PAYING LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES REQUIRED FOR NON-COSTA RICAN FLAG VESSELS TO FISH IN LOCAL WATERS. COSTA RICA'S ADVANTAGE WOULD DERIVE PRIMARILY FROM MAJORITY OWNERSHIP OF THE JOINT VZITURES. THE FISHERIES OFFICIAL ADDED THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW COSTA RICA DID NOT INTEND TO NEGOTIATE A "TUNA TREATY" WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY COSTA RICAN DESIRE TO CONCLUDE A TREATY CONCERNING TUNA WITH THE U.S. IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME THAT COSTA RICA WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND ITS TUNA OPERATIONS. THIS STEMS FROM A CONVICTION THAT TUNA FOUND WITHIN THE 200-MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA BELONGS TO COSTA RICA AND SHOULD BRING SOME ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY WHEN REMOVED. HOWEVER, COSTA RICA DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO ENFORCE ITS TWO-YEAR OLD LAW REQUIRING LICENSES AND PERMITS TO FISH IN ITS PATRIMONIAL SEA. IT APPEARS, THEREFORE, THAT COSTA RICA INTENDS TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT RECEIVES FROM THE TUNA FISHERY IN ITS WATERS BY EXPANDING ITS OWN TUNA OPERATIONS IN THE AREA VIA JOINT VENTURES WITH U.S. FIRMS WHICH HAVE THE CAPITAL, EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH COSTA RICA LACKS. WEISSMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TUNA, INDUSTRY, PRESS COMMENTS, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANJO03246
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770757/aaaabxjp.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Type: TE
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